

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

TRAN

Application No.: 10/779,537

Filed: 2/14/2004

Examiner: PHAM, MICHAEL

Art Unit: 2811

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In response to the Office Action in July 2010, Applicant responds as follows:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

searching one or more remote databases for one or more relevant patents; ~~and performing a network analysis on the relevant patents and displaying one or more patents~~

parsing noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

linking each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for ease of reviewing the patent.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising

receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;

searching the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;

retrieving cited prior art patents for each patent found in search results;

updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art patents; and

running a second search using the updated query.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

for each patent, creating spring relationship among patents having relationship strength based on number of citation of patent prior art; and

generating a spring mass diagram.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising clusterizing patents according to word similarity.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a visualization of the patents for ~~display on a screen or~~ plotting on a large format plotter.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising three-dimensionally visualizing the patents on a 3D display device showing a 3D environment where a user is placed in a virtual environment to enable the user to manipulate and explore IP relationships in three-dimensions.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~allowing a user to review the search result and revise the query~~ annotating a patent drawing by taking an item or part list, associating a corresponding item name with an item number, and showing the corresponding item name with the item number to avoid manual annotation of the drawing.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising caching results from prior IP maps in a remote computer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising retrieving a cached IP map in response to a user request.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising periodically flushing cached IP maps to ensure a fresh IP map.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising distributing a search as a peer-to-peer search using ~~over~~ a plurality of client computers.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein one of the client computers is located behind a firewall, further comprising bypassing the firewall in sending distributed search results to a remote computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising annotating a patent at a local computer and caching the annotated patent at a remote computer to satisfy a subsequent request for said patent.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

- (a) receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;
- (b) searching the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;
- (c) retrieving cited prior art for each patent found as search results;
- (d) updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art;
- (e) iteratively repeating (b)-(d) using the updated query; ~~and~~
- (f) ~~displaying the intellectual property~~

(g) parsing noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

(h) linking each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for ease of reviewing the patent.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising ~~network-analyzing the search results~~ updating a PDF document by linking from each noun phrase to the description in the PDF document.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

means for searching one or more remote databases for one or more relevant patents; ~~and~~

~~means for performing a network analysis on the relevant patents and displaying one or more patents~~

means for parsing noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

means for linking each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for ease of reviewing the patent..

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising means for generating a computer-readable intellectual property mapping file.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the IP mapping file comprises:

a collection of patent documents, each having one or more links ~~embedded in the first portion~~ referencing one or more external documents viewable using a viewer application; and one or more links embedded in ~~the third~~ a claim portion referencing information contained in ~~the second~~ a description portion; and

links to the external documents generated by a network analysis of relationships among the patent documents, wherein noun phrases in claims are cross-referenced with the one or more external documents, and wherein the external document includes a patent file history.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media, executable by a processor, containing executable computer program instructions comprising:

code to receive as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;
code to search the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;
code to retrieve cited prior art patents for each patent found in search results;
code to update the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art patents;
code to run a second search using the updated query; and
code to perform a network analysis on a search ~~results~~ result and to display the search result;

code to parse noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

code to link each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for ease of reviewing the patent.

20. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 19, further comprising code to ~~distribute the processing over a plurality of computers~~ annotate a patent drawing by taking an item or part list, associate a corresponding item name with an item number, and show the corresponding item name with the item number to avoid manual annotation of the drawing.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims and Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If for any reasons the Examiner believes a telephone conference would in any way expedite resolution of the issues raised in this appeal, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 408-528-7490.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /bqt/
Bao Tran